

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-41 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claim 31 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 12, 21, 22, 32 and 33 have been amended. As a result, claims 1-30 and 32-41 are pending for examination with claims 1, 11, 21 and 32 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview on June 10, 2008. During the interview, proposed claim amendments and the rejections in the Office Action of April 1, 2008 were discussed. The Examiner indicated a new search would be required, but that the proposed amendments appear to distinguish over the art of record.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claims 21-30, 31 under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claim 21 is amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 31 has been canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the section of the Office Action entitled "Response to Arguments," the Examiner advises that the claims should specify the "nature of the activity." Each of independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 32 has been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended distinguish over the cited references.

Claim 1 as amended recites that the "activity program" is "adapted to implement a portion of a collaboration session on a first peer device of the plurality of peer devices." The claim further recites "the activity program modifying a local data copy of a shared space in response to deltas generated as a result of user actions within the collaboration system at the first peer device and other peer devices of the plurality of peer devices." Further, claim 1 recites that the activity program generates "a component update request in response to an action by a user within the collaboration session, the user action indicating a change to the shared space made with the component. Applicant respectfully submits that the references, whether considered

alone or in combination, do not teach such an activity program or generation of such a component update request.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on Donohue and Parthesarathy. Though Donohue is cited to teach a peer-to-peer collaboration system as in claim 1, Applicants respectfully disagree that Donohue describes such a system. The Office Action cites column 7, lines 12-25 as teaching a peer-to-peer collaboration system. However, the cited passage describes that updater components can talk to other updater components as described later in that references (see, column 7, lines 9-10). As understood, this passage describes a functionality that allows software identified as “pre-requisite” for software being updated to also be updated. (Column 13, lines 16-41). Applicants respectfully disagree that interaction between updater components that update pre-requisite software as described in Donohue is a peer-to-peer collaboration system that meets the limitations of the claim.

Other limitations of claim 1 also are not met. Claim 1 recites “the activity program modifying a local data copy of a shared space in response to deltas generated as a result of user actions within the first collaboration system at the first peer device and other peer devices of the plurality of peer devices.” Updater components that are used to update pre-requisite software components cannot be viewed as modifying a local data copy of a shared space as claimed. Moreover, claim 1 recites “user action indicating a change to the shared space made with the component” for which an update request is generated. The updater components of Donohue updating pre-requisite software appear to operate based on predefined criteria, and cannot be regarded as meeting the limitation.

The Office Action also cites to Donohue at column 3, lines 15-21; column 4, lines 15-22 and at column 9, lines 51-54. Applicants respectfully disagree that these passages describe a peer-to-peer collaboration system with an activity program as claimed. The cited passage in column 3 describes a prior art software updater utility that checks an online service to find updates. The cited passage at column 4 describes an updater component that performs a comparison between available software updates and installed software on a computer. The cited passage at column 9 indicates that the updater component performs a scan of the operating system to check whether required software resources are already available on a computer.

None of these cited passages describes either a peer-to-peer collaboration system or “an activity program” meeting all of the limitations of claim 1. For example, none of the passages

describes “generating a component update request in response to an action by a user within a collaboration session, the user action indicating a change to the shared space made with the component.” To the contrary, Donohue expressly describes using predefined update criteria stored on a local computer system (see, column 4, lines 19-21).

Parthesarathy is not cited to teach an activity program within a peer-to-peer collaboration system or generating a component update request as claimed. Accordingly, even if Donohue and Parthesarathy were properly combinable, the combination would not teach all limitations of claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 11 is likewise rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on Donohue and Parthesarathy, and the Office Action cites the same passages of these references as are cited in connection with claim 1. For reasons that should be apparent from the foregoing discussion of the cited references in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants respectfully disagree that the references, whether considered alone or in combination, meet all limitations of claim 11 as amended.

For example, claim 11 recites “generating a component update request.” That request is generated “in response to receiving information above a component being used in a collaboration session involving the at least one other computer.” Furthermore, claim 11 recites that “the received information being generated dynamically while the collaboration system is in operation modify the shared space based on input of a plurality of users collaborating using the peer-to-peer collaboration system.” Applicants respectfully submit that no part of Donohue, including passages that describe communication between updater components to update pre-requisite software, meets these limitations. Parthesarathy is not cited to teach these elements. Accordingly, even if the references were combined, the combination would not meet the highlighted limitations, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1 and 11 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 21 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on Varma and Parthesarathy. Applicants respectfully disagree that Varma and Parthesarathy, whether considered alone or in combination do not teach all limitations of any of the independent claims 21, 31 or 32. Though Varma describes a collaboration system, it does not describe a peer-to-peer collaboration system as in the claims. Rather, Varma describes a modification of a server-based collaboration system in which the collaboration server is distributed over multiple servers, with

each partition of the work space containing a partition server that distributes commands to user computers within the partition. The Office Action cites Varma at column 5, lines 16-67 and column 6, lines 1-27 as teaching the collaboration system that selectively generates an update request for a component. However, the cited passage in column 5 relates to distributing workspace modification requests through the partition servers and is unrelated to request for updating components as recited in the claims. The cited passage in column 6 relates to distributing modifications through a queue on a server.

These passages are not a basis to assert that Varma meets all limitations of the claims. For example, claim 21 recites program code “for running a process that maintains a local copy of a shared space, the process being adapted to respond to input from the plurality of members and generates a request to update a component used in modifying the local copy of the shared space, the request being generated in response to user input indicating use of the component.” A FIFO on a server or partitioning functions of a server across multiple servers as described in Varma does not meet this limitation.

Claim 32 also recites limitations not met by the references. That claim recites a means for implementing a collaboration session for a user. The claim further recites that the means is “adapted to maintain a local copy of a data space shared by a plurality of collaborating members in the collaboration session and to receive an indication of a component in use within the collaboration session.” Claim 32 further recites that an update request is selectively generated “for the component based on the indication of use.” Applicants respectfully submit that partitioning a work space or a FIFO on a server as described in Varma could not reasonably be interpreted to meet these limitations of claim 32.

Parthesarathy is not cited to teach the claim limitations highlighted above as not being shown in Varma. Accordingly, even if the references were combined, the combination would not meet the highlighted limitations, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1 and 11 be withdrawn.

Comments on Dependent Claims

Each of the remaining claims depends, directly or indirectly, from one of the independent claims and therefore distinguishes over the cited references for at least the same reasons as the

independent claims. Further, the dependent claims recite limitations that further distinguish over the references, providing additional reasons that the dependent claims should be allowed.

For example, claim 2 recites that an activity program on a first peer device generates a component update request based on action by the user with a second activity program on a second peer device. Claim 8, which is dependent on claim 2, further recites that the update request is generated “in response to receiving an invitation from a user of the first device to join the collaboration session.”

As another example of dependent limitations that further distinguish over the references, claim 7 recites in addition to the component manager recited in claim 1, “a system component manager” and “a system component installer” as recited in claim 7, these components may be used when the component to be updated may be required for operation of the claimed apparatus.

Claim 9 further distinguishes over the references by reciting that the change for which the component update request is generated “comprises instantiation of a template for the tool.”

Because each of the dependent claims depends from a base claim that is believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicants believe that it is unnecessary at this time to argue the allowability of all of the dependent claims individually. However, Applicants do not necessarily concur with the interpretation of the dependent claims as set forth in the Office Action, nor do the Applicants concur that the basis for the rejection of any of the dependent claims is proper. Therefore, Applicants reserve the right to specifically address the patentability of the dependent claims in the future.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

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Respectfully submitted,

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